>

Title:Need to extend the Agriculture Debt Waiver Scheme to the financial organisations giving loans to SCs, STs and OBCs.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (SAMBALPUR): The agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme of 2008 has enabled a considerable section of the farmers to get rid of the burden of agricultural loan. But the ground reality is that large number of farmers have also taken loans for purchase of tractors, power tiller and other agricultural machineries. Similarly, loans have also been availed by farmers for dairy units and other animal husbandry schemes. The Debt Relief and Debt Waiver Scheme 2008 has been applicable to all commercial banks, regional rural banks, cooperative societies, cooperative banks and NABARD only. But the Apex Financing Organisations of the Government, such as, Scheduled Castes Development Finance Corporation, National Scheduled Tribes Finance Corporation and other Government, owned apex Finance Organisations which provide finance to farmers belonging to SCs, STs, OBCs and other minority communities have not been covered under the scheme. As a result, the State level financing organizations which are directly catering to the credit needs of SCS, STs and OBCs are deprived of the benefits of the scheme thereby excluding the large number of poor farmers. It is, therefore, my sincere appeal that all such financing bodies which basically extend loans to agriculturalists of the socially backward communities of the country should also be covered under the scheme.